



Sheffield TIMES

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol. III, Issue 1 September/October 2003



Boardman's Farm Stand on Hewins Street is the oldest operating stand in Sheffield. Like many stands, it operates on the honor system making it easy for the public to stop in at their convenience, and sells a variety of products in season.

to the pick-your-own pumpkin operation and the Howden bed and breakfast, Bruce Howden and partner Dave Prouty open a farm stand from "when the sweet corn ripens" until frost. The hours are listed as 10 to 5, but the Howden stand is also run on the honor system, so go at your convenience. You will find Howden sweet corn ("we think we have the best corn," says Bruce), Howden raspberries and other locally grown produce. Take Route 7 to 7A to 303 Rannapo Rd. Coming into Sheffield from the north, you will see a small stand on the right with a sign "Noah's fresh produce." Three years ago, Noah

Continued on page 3

AUTUMN HARVEST AT SHEFFIELD FARM STANDS

The best chefs know that the secret to great flavor is using the freshest possible ingredients. And how much fresher can you get than "just-picked"? You can find just-picked produce at a variety of farm stands around Sheffield.

The oldest operating stand in Sheffield belongs to Dick Boardman on the Maple Ave. end of Hewins St., about two miles from the town center. It's been in operation so long, even Dick doesn't remember when he started it. The "new" stand is 20 years old, replacing a stand that had worn out. This year, Boardman's got a late start. "I lost two corn plantings because of the weather," says Boardman, but three times was the charm. Run on the honor system, Boardman's farm stand will be open when you get there, from now until mid-November. "I grow about 95 percent of it myself. The rest I buy only from farmers," Dick says.

The newest stand in town belongs to Bob and Sue Kelly, at 1647 Hewins St., on the other end of Hewins in Ashley Falls, just off Route 7. Three years ago, Bob and

Sue moved to the area from Upton, Mass., cleared 40 acres of woods and went to work. Together they operate the greenhouses and do the planting. Two years ago, they opened the stand and last year they began a pick-your-own operation of strawberries and blueberries. They are open most days from 10am until 6pm. On Friday, they close the stand at 3pm to sell at the Farmers' Market of Sheffield where you can find them from 4-7pm. On Mondays, they are closed. Tuesdays, senior citizens (62 and over) get a 20 percent discount on everything grown on the premises. That includes most of the produce, except the tree fruit. In addition to produce, Bob Kelly's Farm offers baked goods made locally by Odille Carpenter, Mead's Farm Maple syrup from Canaan and Chester Sweets from Vermont.

It would not be autumn in Sheffield without Howden Farm, the home of the world-famous Howden and Howden Biggie pumpkins, still recognized as the standard of the pumpkin industry. In addition

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See box above for contact information.

Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for
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THANK YOU!

To everyone who has donated since the last issue to help keep the *Sheffield Times* going! To anyone we missed, we'll get you into the next issue.

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SHEFFIELD MILESTONES

Harry Conklin and Ali Winston will wed on September 21, 2003, at Dewey Hall, in the center of Sheffield. The reception will be at Stavleigh House, a B&B run by Ms. Winston.

Is there someone you would like to honor by noting a birth, marriage, death or other significant event? Send us their name and a sentence or two on them, the event or their contribution to Sheffield.

Parsons, an active 4-H participant, decided to raise vegetables instead of sheep. "I wanted to do something independent of my brother," said Parsons. From mid-July until late September, 9am-7pm, you can find carefully raised, freshly picked and attractively displayed produce and flowers. Although Noah graduated from Monument Mountain this year, he plans to continue his stand through his first year of college, even planning to open earlier in the season. The stand is usually run on the honor system, but Noah often sits outside. "I like to meet my customers and find out what they like," he says. "It's good business experience."

One stand that will be noticeable by its absence this

year is Gavin Egerton's, across from the Sunrise Diner. A carpenter by trade, Gavin planted a large hobby garden for years. Like most of us gardeners, he usually had more produce than he could use. Unlike the rest of us, he had a home right on Route 7 with an easy driveway to pull in and out of. "It was just a way to sell the excess", says Gavin's daughter, Ann. "Except for the pumpkins. He liked to grow those for the stand." Not only did Gavin sell only his own produce, he saved seeds and tried to improve on his favorite varieties. Gavin Egerton passed away last November. The stand is gone as well, but the seeds are flourishing in his son Bill's garden.

—June Wolfe

SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION

This year's festivities run Sept. 5-7 and 12-14.

Highlights include:

The Old Parish Quilt Show, Sept. 5, 10am-4:30pm and Sept. 6, 10am-7pm. More than 100 quilts will be displayed and the Old Parish Quilters will be raffling off their 11th quilt. An appraiser will also be on hand for those with appointments (call Connie Logan 528-9941). Admission is \$5. Lunch will be available.

The Farmer's Market of Sheffield, Sept. 5 and 12, 4-7 in the Center of Sheffield.

The Art Show at the Library, with paintings around a theme of "Food: Grown, Cooked and Eaten," Sept. 5, 4-7pm; Sept. 6, 10am-7pm; Sept. 7, 13 & 14, 10am-4pm. There will be an artists reception Sat., Sept. 6, 5-7pm, during the Sheffield Fair.

The Fair on the Green, Saturday, Sept. 6, 3-7pm, is the 3rd Annual Sheffield Fair. Tom Ingersoll will MC a

great musical line up of area favorites, as well as Yankee Notions, a regional duo, made possible by the Sheffield and Massachusetts Cultural Councils.

The classic and muscle cars are back along with a wide variety of food -- from hotdogs and fried dough to salads and baked good. Everything from animal feed, fine furniture and boat building are included in the local business and cottage industry showcase.

The Fire Dept. will be on hand with one of their fire engines and the Boy Scouts are back with their climbing wall.

Childrens' activities run from 3-5 and include pony rides, face painting, 4-H animals and a crafts table. There will be hayrides, and members of the Glory B Clowns will be on hand to entertain one and all.

Residents can see what is happening with the Master Plan at the display in Dewey Hall, and commemorative mugs will be available for purchase.

MASTER PLAN MOVING AHEAD, PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT

With summer fading and the crisp energy of fall arriving, the work of drafting of the various sections of the Sheffield Master Plan is moving along. The aim is to have a draft of the whole plan by October, with formal public comment and review in late fall or winter.

The subcommittees are holding meetings, work sessions, and reaching out to the community for input. **All input is welcome, at a meeting, via phone, e-mail or mail, and now is a great time to share your thoughts.** Call any of the subcommittee chairs noted below or come to a meeting. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting times are posted at Town Hall and, when possible, at the Library. Maps and copies of the initial drafts of the report sections are available at the Town Hall and the Library. Reports are available online at the website below, as well.

Economic Development. Chairs: Don Ward (229-9023) and Sharon Gregory (229-2717 or sharongregory1@cs.com). Meets every other Monday. Next meeting: 9/8, 5-7pm at Town Hall.

Land Use, Open Space & Recreation. Chair: Jared Clayton (229-0363). Meets every other Wednesday at 7pm and Saturday at 10am. Next meetings: 9/10, 7-9pm at Town Hall; 9/13, 10-12 noon at Dewey Hall; 9/24, 7-9pm at Town Hall; 9/27, 10-12 noon at Library; 10/8, 7-9pm at Town Hall; 10/11, 10-12 at Library; 10/22, 7-9pm at Town Hall; 10/25, 10-12 at Library.

Facilities, Services & Transportation. Chair: Anna James (229-3096 or arjames@bcn.net). Meets every other Monday. Next meeting: 9/8, 7:30-9:30, Town Hall.

Housing. Chair: David West (229-7727). Next meeting: 9/8, 7:30-9:30 at Town Hall.

Steering Committee. Chair: Kathy Orlando (wildkato@aol.com or 229-8789). Next meetings: 9/29 or 10/6, 4:30pm at Town Hall.

Consultant Ted Brovitz, project manager, attends many meetings and can be reached at 617-426-9716 or tbrovitz@dugresne-henry.com

Check the web site at www.dufresne-henry.com/Sheffield for the latest reports and information.



BOARD OF ASSESSORS, TREASURER/COLLECTOR & THE TOWN BUDGET

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Position: part time, paid; appointed by Board of Selectmen

Current assessors: Ruth A. Gillette, MAA, Chairperson; Tammy L. Blackwell, MAA, and Barbara West

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9am-1pm

Property taxes are by far the largest single source of Sheffield's revenues, and the Board of Assessors is responsible for determining the value of the property to be taxed in a consistent, fair way, so that the town's taxes are allocated equitably among all the town's property owners. The assessment process determines the value of Sheffield's real property (land and structures) and personal property (equipment, furniture, inventory, animals and other items). After the total value is determined, the year's tax rate is set as so many dollars per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The rate is based on what is needed to generate the revenue to meet the town's projected expenditures for the year, after allowing for non-property tax revenue expected from the state of Massachusetts and other sources. The town's yearly expenditures are basically those approved by the town's voters at the May Town Meeting for the coming fiscal year, which starts July 1.

In fiscal year 2004, property taxes are budgeted to be about 89 percent of the town's expected revenues, which is roughly what it's been for the past few years. As the table below shows, taxes on residential property are the predominant source of revenue.

Property taxes by type

(fiscal year 2003)

Residential	86%
Commercial	10
Industrial	2
Personal	2

While the rules governing who has to pay personal property taxes and on what types of property are complex, Massachusetts residents do not have to pay taxes on household items kept at their principal domicile. So homeowners who live primarily in Sheffield do not have to pay personal property taxes on personal property in their Sheffield home, but those whose primary residence is in New York or Boston or somewhere else do.

To ensure that property taxes will be collected fairly and equitably, Massachusetts law requires that each city's and town's properties be reassessed by the Board of Assessors and "recertified" by the state Department of Revenue (DOR) as being at 100 percent of "full and fair value" every three years. The current year, fiscal year 2004, is a "recertification year." Since property values change constantly, the Board revalues properties at intervals between recertification years in order to maintain uniform assessments throughout the town, based on the real-estate marketplace, new construction, and various improvements to existing construction.

In FY 2002, due mainly to the rising value of real estate in Sheffield, such interim value updates resulted in an average 25 percent

increase in residential property values. Last year, increases leveled off. This year's increase looks to be nearly as high as 2002's.

Rising assessments that reflect rising property values (and rising equity and assets for Sheffield property owners) don't necessarily mean higher taxes. If the amount of revenue required by the town remains the same, as values rise, tax rates fall. The property tax rate was as high as \$15.940 per thousand in FY 2000. It fell to \$14.20 in 2001 and \$13.00 in 2002. The tax rate for 2003 is \$13.46.

According to Sheffield's annual report, the average single-family tax bill for FY 2003 is \$2,710, compared with a statewide average of about \$3,200. Compared with neighboring towns in Berkshire County, Sheffield's tax bills are average. In 2002, the average single-family tax bill in Sheffield was \$2,610, less than Great Barrington (\$2,822) and Lenox (\$2,739) but more than Egremont (\$2,312) and Stockbridge (\$2,057).

How assessment works

There are several generally accepted approaches to valuation. The "cost" method looks to the replacement cost of a piece of property. The "income" method is

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frequently used to measure income-producing properties such as retail stores, restaurants, storage facilities, etc. The "market" method is based on actual sales prices of comparable properties ("comps") and is ordinarily the most reliable basis for valuing single-family residences (at least when there are sufficient sales of similar properties).

In addition to the reassessments required every three years by the state, adding improvements or an addition can cause the assessed value to change. Assessors study spreadsheets of real-estate and land prices and examine building permits. They conduct inspections of properties, inside and out, particularly in connection with the issuance of certificates of occupancy after new construction or remodeling. For the past decade, the town has retained Bishop & Assoc., a firm of professional appraisers, to assist the Board in making its valuations.

You can find out the assessed value of your property by consulting records maintained by the Board of Assessors. These records are usually updated to reflect revaluations at the end of the year or beginning of the following year. If you disagree with the new valuation, you can apply for an abatement, a reduction. In fiscal year 2003, the Board of Assessors acted on 23 abatement applications, and granted 18 of them.

While Massachusetts law requires that similar types of properties be taxed at the same rates, it does permit "split tax rates," in other words taxing residential properties

and open space at different rates than commercial and industrial properties, subject to limitations. To date, Sheffield has not used a split tax rate.

How the tax rate is determined

Each year, usually in October or November, the Board of Assessors must submit to the state Department of Revenue (DOR) what is known as the "tax recapitulation sheet" (or "recap sheet"). This documents that Sheffield has a balanced budget for the fiscal year and that the budget is in compliance with Proposition 2 1/2, which limits how much property taxes can increase (see details p.6).

The recap sheet is used by the DOR to determine the town's property tax rate. It deducts total projected revenues, other than property tax revenues, from total estimated expenses to arrive at the amount that must be covered by property taxes. The tax rate is then fixed by the DOR at the percentage of the total assessed value of the town's taxable property required to raise that amount.

Sheffield fiscal 2003 tax summary
(in millions)

Projected revenue needed	\$6.29
Non-property tax revenue	1.27
Balance to be raised	\$5.02

Total assessed valuation \$373

Rate needed to raise balance:
\$13.46 per thousand

The assessors' office
The assessors' office and adjoin-

ing map room in the Town Hall can be a very busy place. There is usually a constant stream of homeowners, homebuyers, contractors, real estate agents, lawyers and others poring over tax maps and records and seeking abutters lists, assessed valuations and other information about their own or others' properties. In addition to attending to these matters, the assessors make site visits, maintain maps and records and regularly attend workshops, courses and conferences to hone their skills, ensure that they are aware of new legislation and other developments and, in the case of Ruth Gillette and Tammy Blackwell, to maintain their status as Massachusetts Accredited Assessors (MAA, for short). Barbara West is completing course work to earn her MMA as well.

Sheffield should be particularly proud of Ruth, the Chairperson, who received the Wilson Award in 2002, which is presented to the Massachusetts' assessor who has made the most outstanding contribution to the assessing profession. Ruth became an assessor in 1980 and, during her tenure, has thoroughly reorganized the assessors' office and introduced many innovations and efficiencies.

Continued on page 6

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government P R O F I L E

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TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Position: full time; paid; appointed by Board of Selectmen

Current holder: Michael Ovitt

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm

Michael Ovitt is both Sheffield's Treasurer and its Collector, positions that are different but related. As Treasurer, he is responsible for the deposit, safekeeping, investment and disbursement of town funds and the town's banking relationships. He issues bonds and other debt on the town's behalf (which must be authorized by Town Meeting and approved by the Board of Selectmen), and determines the town's cash needs, what is available to invest and when the town needs to borrow or issue notes or bonds (an infrequent occurrence). The Treasurer signs checks for the town but only if the related warrant for payment has

been prepared by the town's accountant and approved by the Selectmen.

As Collector, Mike is responsible for collecting virtually all amounts payable to Sheffield, although some are in fact paid to other town officials or departments or state agencies and turned over by them to the Collector. They range from property, motor vehicle and farm animal excise taxes, to inspection, license and permit fees (for example, building and Board of Health inspection fees, fees for liquor, marriage, dog and hunting licenses and tag sale and transfer station fees and those for variances, special permits and notices of intent issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Board or the Conservation Commission) to speeding tickets, other fines and penalties.

His duties include pursuing past-due accounts including, if necessary, by taking tax title (a step leading to foreclosure) for non-payment of

taxes. But aggressive action like this usually occurs only after long delays and discussions with the debtor in an attempt to work out a satisfactory arrangement for payment. (Interest is still due, however, and it accrues at the rate of 14 percent per annum—16 percent, if tax title to the property has been taken.) By law, the Collector cannot forgive tax obligations.

According to Mike, the best part of his job is working with people, whether they are fellow officials at Town Hall or Sheffield residents or others, and the worst is having to press taxpayers and others having difficulties with their debts to pay their obligations to the town.

All of this requires careful attention to detail, an ability to explain complex tax and financial matters to sometimes bewildered residents, extensive coordination with other town departments, meticulous record keeping and persuasiveness. Mike is ably assisted in this work by Barbara Roraback and Lisa Meyer.

—Peter Rowntree

PROPOSITION 2 1/2: NOT YET AN ISSUE

Adopted by the Massachusetts voters in 1980, Proposition 2 1/2 limits a municipality's ability to increase property taxes in two ways: 1) The "levy ceiling" limits the amount by which taxes can be increased in each fiscal year to 2 1/2%. 2) The "levy limit" keeps increases in property taxes from rising more than 2 1/2% over the previous year, plus the estimated additional tax revenue that could be raised on new construction and similar additions to the tax base.

Sheffield hasn't been close to either limit in recent years, partly because of conservative financial management by town officials and partly because of the rise in property values from improvements and new construction in town. Currently, Sheffield could levy up to an additional \$400,000 or so in property taxes before the levy limit would kick in.

Municipalities whose real estate market is less bouyant are less fortunate. Pittsfield, for instance, has

historically been much closer to its levy limit and has suffered deep cuts in state aid, which has traditionally represented well over half its revenues. (Because state aid allocation formulas discriminate against small rural towns, Sheffield has never depended on these subsidies for more than a small fraction of its revenues.) Without the ability to raise property taxes significantly, Pittsfield has been forced to make painful cuts in education and other services. —P.R.



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SHEFFIELD'S REVENUE AND EXPENSES

At the May 2003 Town Meeting, the voters approved budgeted expenditures, including capital as well as operating expenditures, of approximately \$6.37 million for Sheffield's fiscal year 2004 (which started on July 1 of this year). Various adjustments bring the total projected expenditures to about \$6.56 million. That's slightly more than a 4.3 percent increase over the expenses for fiscal year 2003, attributable in part to loss of state aid.

Sheffield's revenue

Like most small towns, Sheffield gets most of its revenue from property taxes. In addition, Sheffield gets a minor portion of its funds from the state, from its share in the state lottery revenue (estimated at \$13,714) and payment in lieu of taxes on state land (known as PILOT). Because of the state's budget straits, attributable to Boston's Big Dig, voter-mandated reductions in state income taxes and the recession, state aid has been cut back drastically in recent years, particularly aid for education.

A more important source of revenue comes from what is known as "local receipts." The largest such item is the motor vehicle excise tax, which brought in almost \$375,000 in FY 2002. In addition, many town departments generate revenue that offsets some or all of their expenses. For example, in 2002, the Police Department brought in well over \$100,000 from traffic tickets (over \$41,000 for 641 citations issued) and other fines and penalties, fees for alarm, tag sale and firearm permits and state and federal grants for special programs.

Other local receipts include gifts from Berkshire School and Landmark Volunteers, exempt from paying property taxes because of their nonprofit status. Interest on Town funds generated more than \$35,000 in FY 2002.

SHEFFIELD REVENUE OVERVIEW

(estimated FY 2004)

Property taxes	81%
Local receipts	9
Transfer from "free cash"*	7
State aid**	4

Numbers don't add to 100 due to rounding.

**Free cash is a reserve accumulated from prior fiscal years.*

***State aid excludes education.*

Sheffield's expenses

Also like most small towns, Sheffield spends most of its money on schools. Of all the items in the budget, Sheffield's voters and government have the least control over this expenditure. The District's budget is the result of negotiations by the representatives of the five towns in the District (by a 2/3 vote). Then at Town Meeting Sheffield voters can only vote the entire school budget up or down, not on individual items. Also, a large part of school expenditures are mandated by Massachusetts law.

SHEFFIELD'S EXPENSE OVERVIEW

(estimated FY 2004)

School*	67%
Highway Dept.	6
Police	4
Pensions & insurance	4
Other	19

**Town's share of operating and capital budgets*

10 LARGEST EXPENSES IN THE FY2004 BUDGET

Source: Sheffield Annual Report. Southern Berkshire Regional School District is combined operating and capital budgets.

SBRSD (Sheffield's share)	\$4,411,093
Highway Department	409,489
Police Department	256,601
Group health insurance	160,000
Selectmen's Office	133,774
Treasurer/Collector	109,506
Library	104,154
Berkshire Co. Retirement (pensions)	100,072
Town buildings and properties	66,775
Town Clerk	45,966

SHEFFIELD EXPENDITURES V. STATE AVERAGES

Source: Sheffield Annual Report. Per capita budget expenditures for 2002 versus those of other Massachusetts cities and towns (256 out of 351 reporting).

	<u>Sheffield</u>	<u>State</u>
Total expenditures per capita	\$1,655	\$2,037
Non-school expenditures per capita	448	989
Public works expenditures per capita	116	196
Public safety expenditures per capita	91	229
Education expenditures per capita	1,206	1,047
Education expenditures as % of total	72.9%	51.4%

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FAMILY ART SHOW THIS FALL

"Three Generations of Berkshire Painters" will be featured at the Paynes' studio, 146 East St, Mt. Washington, October 11-13.

George Noah Payne (1912-2003) trained at the Art Institute of Chicago and owned a New York City ad firm. His work, principally landscapes in oil and watercolor, was shown at the Society of Illustrators, Salmagundi Club, Cleveland Art Museum, and numerous galleries and local art leagues.

Jean Rose Payne (1912-1975), a graduate of the Cleveland Art Institute and a fashion artist whose work appeared in major magazines, was a painter of nature and children, doing portraits that celebrate the human spirit.

Robert F. Payne, George and Jean's son, studied at the National Academy of Fine Arts in New York, and paints watercolor landscapes of the Berkshires.

For more information, call Vanessa Noble Gang at 800-256-9922, #1.

CHURCH NEWS

Old Parish Church

Rally Sundae! On Sunday, Sept. 7, the official opening of the Church School Year begins with a special service of worship for all ages at 10am. Children and youth will leave the service early and celebrate the opening of the Church School Year with ice cream sundaes! The older youths (7-12th grade) will gather again at 5:30pm for the beginning of their Youth Group. Pizza and cold drinks will be served. Everyone is invited and welcome!

Good Samaritan Fund. This fund supported by all the town congregations provides immediate, limited financial assistance to individuals and families in crisis. The fund is low now! Send donations to Old Parish Church made out to The Good Samaritan Fund.

Food assistance program. Another program supported by all the town congregations, it provides food to individuals and families. Non-perishable items and meats (chicken, ground meat, hot dogs) are needed. When the store you shop at has "buy one, get one free" specials, think about donating the free ones to the program. Food may be brought in Mon., Tues. or Fri. mornings or call the Church office at 229-8173.

Church Community Forum. On Wed., Sept. 10 at 7:30pm, a panel discussion on gays in the church will be held with panelists including the Rev. Tom Driver, Professor Emeritus, Union Seminary; John Sisson, Retired USAF Col. and deacon and member of Old Parish Church's board of trustees. Questions and answers will follow a brief presentation. This forum is designed to allow this issue that we have been hearing so much about to be aired where everyone can be heard and information and points of view shared openly, respectfully and honestly.

The Bible and the newspaper. A six-week forum, open to the public,

explores the issues of our times and what, if anything, the Bible (our faith) has to say about them. Can a book and a faith formed over a thousand years ago help us make decisions in a world struggling with issues from cloning to the internet, never even imagined in those times? Participants can gather at 6:30pm for a light potluck supper. Discussion begins at 7:15 and ends at 8:30. Begins Wed. Sept. 17.

Christ Church

Search for new rector. The Vestry of Christ Church, Main St., Sheffield, has charged a Search Committee to call a new rector. On Pentecost, Sunday, June 8, Pastor Susan H. Crampton retired from the position. Supply clergy have been filling in over the summer months. The members of the search committee are: Carla Cross, Fran Hunt, Cindy Meyer, Mark Ziobro and Dennis Sears of Sheffield; Rita Mathews and Jennifer Tranter of New Marlboro; Howard Swanson of Ashley Falls; and Kerry Willig of Egremont. John A. Miller of Sheffield will serve as chair.

The Search Committee will meet regularly and develop an up-to-date parish profile, which will be the basis for selecting a rector who can meet the challenges and opportunities in the parish. Then, in conjunction with Bishop Gordon Scruton's advocacy, candidates will be visited and interviewed and a finalist recommended for hiring to the Vestry.

Sundae Sunday. On Sept. 14, members and guests of the parish of Christ Church are invited to bring their children to the 10am worship service to register for the parish's Sunday School. All attendees will be served ice cream sundaes at the coffee hour following the service. The Sunday School is for toddlers thru 7th grade.



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Churches & Services

ASHLEY FALLS

Grace Bible (non-denominational)
355 Clayton Road (413) 229-8560; parsonage
(860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages
3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care
provided; Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)
1156 Ashley Falls Road (413) 229-2712. Sunday: 9am
Service. Pastor Betty LeGeyt

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church (Episcopal)
180 Main Street (413) 229-8811
Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday
School & childcare; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist &
Healing. Rev. Susan H. Crampton

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses
Rte 7 & Kellogg Road (413) 229-8649.
The public is welcome.

Faith Baptist
640 North Main Street (413) 229-0400 Sunday:
9:45am Sunday School; 10:45am Worship Service;
6pm Bible Study; Wednesday: 7pm Mid-week Service;
Pastor L.V. Morris.

Old Parish (United Church of Christ)
125 Main Street (413) 229-8173
Sunday: 10am Worship. Rev. Art Kaufman, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)
Maple Avenue (413) 229-3028; Saturday: 5:30pm
Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill
River 10:30 Mass. Rev. John S. Lis

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)
1970 N. Main Street, www.sheffieldchapel.org, (413)
528-0233 Sunday: 8am & 10:45am Morning Worship;
9:30am Sunday school for all ages. Pastor Chet
Howes

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist)
North Street (413) 528-4197 Friday, 8pm & Saturday,
10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules
are updated weekly on the answering machine,
including special services.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
270 State Road (413) 528-6378 Friday: 7:30pm
Shabbat Service; Saturday: 10am Shabbat service &
Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, As't Rabbi
Andrew Klein

Trinity Lutheran
St. James 352 Main Street (413) 528-1330. Sunday:
9:30am Sunday Worship. Rev. George E. Mayer

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire
Meet at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main Street
(413) 528-4850; home (413) 528-3106.
Sunday: 5pm. Rev. Kathy Duhon

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE FAMILY NETWORK PROGRAMS

Due to budget constraints there will be only one parent
child playgroup in the Town of Sheffield this fall:
Thursdays, at Grace Bible Church, 9:30-11:30am, led by
Olympia Casivant. The playgroup will begin the week of
September 16. Parents, caretakers and nannies are
invited to attend with children aged birth to 5.

Parenting Journey, a 12-week parent experience, will
be offered at the Family Center on South Main St. in
Great Barrington. Play and Learn, a preschool experi-
ence for 3 and 4 year-olds, will be held at the Family
Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Sept 17.
Creative Movement classes, one for 2 year-olds and one
for 3 and 4 year-olds, will be held Friday mornings.

Most activities require preregistration, and it is
suggested that parents call to be sure there is room in the
class. Parents and children are welcomed to visit the
Family Center to use the playroom, the clothing ex-
change and the lending library during drop-in times,
weekdays 2-4pm. Call the Family Center at 528-0721
for more information on these and other programs.

BENEFIT CONTRA DANCE FOR SHEFFIELD GRANGE

For 25 years, Mountain Laurel has been playing for
public contra dances at the Sheffield Grange on the
fourth Saturday of every month (except December).
This month, on Saturday, Sept. 27, the dance will be a
special fundraiser for the Grange itself, which is in need
of support for building maintenance.

Come early to a potluck supper, starting at 6:30pm.
The dance begins at 8:30. The caller for the dance will
be Mountain Laurel's own Joe Baker, who will be emerg-
ing from retirement for this occasion. The band features
Donny MacLean (fiddle), Bonner McAllester (ham-
mered dulcimer) and Joe Baker (guitar). Admission will
be the regular \$6 for adults, \$3 for children. For more
information call 528-9385 or email
jbaker@berkshire.net.

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ADULT EDUCATION

Make your small talk bigger! Impress your neighbors! Go back to school!

The Berkshire Institute for Life-time Learning (BILL), sponsored by Williams College, Berkshire Community College and Simon's Rock; and The Learning Center (TLC), two leading local adult education institutions, set their fall schedules.

The two non-profit organizations offer, for a fairly nominal fee, non-credit courses taught by volunteer teachers. BILL also offers other educational and special events programs. Faculty members include active or retired professors and teachers, writers, artists, diplomats and executives who are experts in the subjects they teach. From what this reporter has seen and heard from other students, the course leaders' knowledge and teaching skills are high quality and the students tend to be well educated, lively and articulate.

BILL courses. Most of BILL's fall classes are held at the BCC Pittsfield Campus, with a few at Simon's Rock and Williams and one at Canyon Ranch. Winter courses will be held at Berkshire South Community Center in Great Barrington.

Fall semester classes start Sept 15. Most classes meet for 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 hours once a week, mostly during daylight hours, for up to six sessions. Some have optional site visits, including the opportunity for students taking the Civil War course to go on a one-week tour of Richmond and the Gettysburg battlefield.

BILL will also offer a special program on "The New Government of China," presented by Professor Sam Crane of Williams College, on Monday, Sept. 8, at the Koussevitzky Arts Center at BCC in Pittsfield at 3:30pm. Admission: \$5 members, \$7.50 nonmembers.

Classes are only open to members. Membership is \$35 a year. The fee for most courses is \$25. For a

BILL FALL OFFERINGS

BCC= BCC Pittsfield Campus

- Reading Dickens (Mon AM, BCC)
- The Civil War (Mon noon, BCC)
- Architecture (Mon and Fri PM, BCC)
- Taking Ten: An Exploration of the Ten-Minute Plays (Mon PM, BCC)
- The Life of the Cell: In Health and in Disease (Mon PM, BCC)
- Reading Very Short Stories (Tues AM, BCC)
- Celestial Navigation (Mon AM BCC)
- Crafts in the World Market (Tues PM, BCC)
- The Rehnquist Court and Civil Liberties (Tues PM BCC)
- Optimal Aging (Wed AM, Canyon Ranch)
- "The American Theatre 1946 to the Present (Wed 12:30 PM Simon's Rock)
- So You're a Grandparent! (Wed 12:30 PM Simon's Rock)
- Great Books/Great Films (Wed 7 PM BCC)
- The Law & Literature of the Environment (Thurs AM Clark Art Institute)
- Arts & Letters of France: Moments of Greatness (Thurs AM Clark Art Institute)
- History and Biology of Australia (Thurs PM Clark Art Institute)
- Today's Headlines (Fri AM BCC)
- The Hills are Alive: Music in the Berkshires (Fri PM BCC).

TLC FALL OFFERINGS

Noble Horizons Learning

- Center=NHLC; Noble Horizons Club Room=NHCR; Scoville Library=SL; Geer Village=GV; PM=afternoon class*
- Celtic Legacy (Mon AM 9/15-12/15, NHLC)
 - Contemporary Genetics (Mon PM 9/15-12/1, SL)
 - Latin American History & Culture (Tues AM 9/23-11/10, NHLC)
 - The Meaning of the Middle Ages for America Wed aft 9/16 - 11/10
 - Shakespeare: Comedies, etc. (Wed AM 10/1-12/17, NHLC)
 - Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain (Wed PM 10/8-11/26, GV)
 - Poetry: the Reader's Choice (Thurs AM 9/18-12/18, SL)
 - Italian 102 (Thurs AM 9/18-12/4, GV)
 - How Consciousness Creates the Material World (Thurs eve 9/18-12/11, NHCR)
 - Timely Trollope, The Way We Live Now (Fri AM, 9/19-12/18, NHLC)
 - Accidental Presidents (Fri AM, 10/31-12/12, NHLC)
 - Integrative Medicine (Fri PM, 9/19-10/24, NHLC)
 - Classical Greek Philosophy (Fri PM, 10/31-12/5, GV)
 - Friday Film Festival (Fri eve, 9/19-12/5, NHLC)

course catalogue, application or information on dates, times and locations, call 413 499-4660, ext. 456, or email smack@berkshirecc.edu.

TLC courses. TLC has courses at Noble Horizons Learning Center (NHLC), Noble Horizons Club Room (NHCR) and the Scoville Library (SL) in Salisbury and Geer Village (GV) in Canaan. TLC hopes to have courses in Sheffield (at Dewey Hall) soon.

TLC has 13 courses this fall. Some start the week of Sept 15, others later. Most meet once a week for two hours, for up to 14 weeks.

Students must be members of TLC. Membership dues are \$60 for a year. There are no other fees. Registration forms and additional information are available at the TLC website at taconiclearningcenter.org or by phone at 860 435-2922.

—Peter Rowntree

'WRITING A LIFE' WORKSHOP

What a life you've led! Remember and enjoy the memories—and share them with your family and friends. For eight weeks, starting on September 18, the Sheffield Friendly Union will present a workshop called "Writing a Life." Participants will write in journals and fine-tune some of their stories for sharing with each other and their families. The workshop, the first in a series of adult

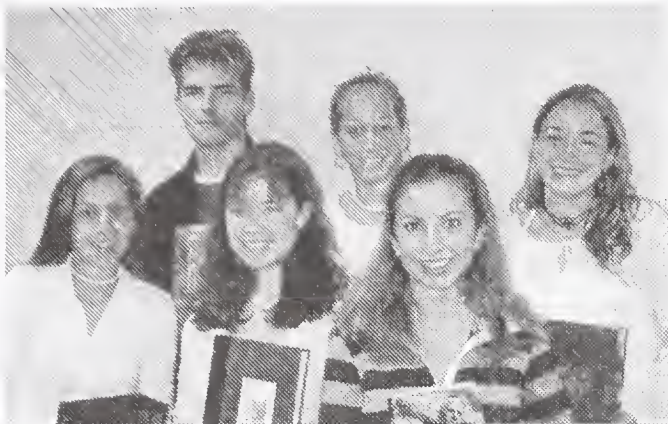
education offerings by the Friendly Union, will be conducted by Marcia Brolli, who taught English at Mt. Everett High School for many years.

Sessions will be held at Dewey Memorial Hall on Main Street in Sheffield, Thursday mornings from 10:45am to 12:15pm. Class size is limited, so enroll early by calling Marcia at 229-2624.

HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS ANNOUNCED

A number of students at Mt. Everett Regional School were recently honored with awards.

College Book Awards. Six students who as juniors demonstrated intellectual leadership and made significant



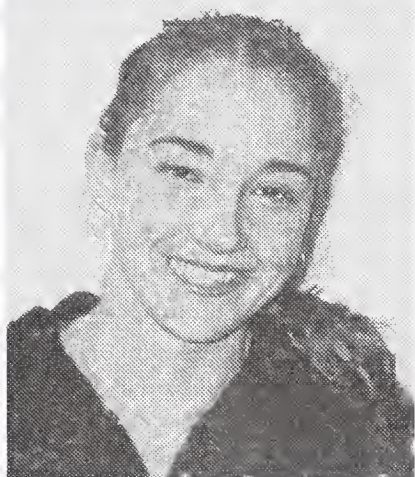
contributions to the extra curricular life of the school received these awards:

Annie Banducci,

the Dartmouth College Book Award; Ashley Brooks, the St. Anselm College Book Award; Justin Dudek, the Sacred Heart University Book Award; Christina Vallianos, the Wellesley College Book Award; and Maegan Warner, the Colby College Book Award; Amelia Wolfe, the Williams College Book Award.

University Of Rochester Award. Amelia Wolfe, a

senior, received the University of Rochester Humanities/Social Sciences Award. Award winners are selected on the basis of scholarship in the humanities or social sciences, leadership, and community service. Wolfe will be eligible to compete for a humanities scholarship at the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y.



In addition to being a member of the National Honor Society, School Council, and SADD, Wolfe played on the varsity soccer, basketball, and softball teams. She also attended Girls' State at Bay Path College in June. She is the daughter of Cindy Wolfe of Kellogg Road, Sheffield and James Wolfe of Polikoff Rd., Ashley Falls.

Rensselaer Medal. Matthew Collingwood, a senior, received the Rensselaer Medal, an award established by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1916 to honor students' academic achievements and to motivate them to pursue higher education leading to careers in science, engineering and the professions. Each high school may select one student who has completed the junior year to receive the award. Mr. Collingwood will receive a \$60,000 scholarship to RPI.



Collingwood is captain of the wrestling team and he has been a member of the basketball and soccer teams. In June, he attended Boys' State at Stonehill College. He is the son of James and Theresa Collingwood of Ashley Falls.

Service Above Self Award. Ashley Winseck, a 2003 graduate, is the recipient of the Great Barrington Rotary Club "Service Above Self Award."

The award recognizes students who have played active roles in their school and community. A plaque honoring Winseck was presented to her during a Rotary Club luncheon on May 21.



In addition to being a member of the National Honor Society, SADD, the volleyball team, and the yearbook committee, Winseck was involved in all aspects of the Rotary Interact Club. The Interact Club sponsored events to support our troops overseas and to financially support an elementary-aged youngster in Brazil. Winseck will attend Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT, in the fall. She is the daughter of Douglas and Charlene Winseck of Sheffield.

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SPRIGGS NAMED NEW SBRSD SUPERINTENDENT

With warmth and enthusiasm, Valerie Spriggs expresses her delight with her new job as Superintendent of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Passionate about education, she is committed to providing the best possible learning environment for the students, teachers and support staff, despite the challenges presented by recent state educational funding cuts.

Since July 1, Spriggs has been working non-stop with her "Cabinet" (the administrative team) to reconfigure the current budget. Listening closely to teachers and students, the school committee and the community, her Cabinet has assessed critical needs and priorities and juggled the budget to restore some essential services. For example, 50 percent of the teacher aides and other paraprofessionals who were let go have been rehired, two new teaching positions have been created, the Foreign Language for Elementary Schools (FLES) program was restored and children with special needs will continue to have their needs met. There are still many budgetary challenges, but Spriggs says she "could not have asked for a harder working, better group of people" with whom to tackle these problems.

Spriggs would like to see every student prepared on graduation with

the academic skills necessary to get into any college of his or her choice—whether liberal arts, vocational or agricultural. She has high expectations for all students, and she intends to give her teachers the support they need to fully develop their students' potentials. She is particularly supportive of the integrated curriculum that's currently being used and pleased with the students' obvious excitement about their interdisciplinary courses. She is determined that every child in her district will experience the excitement of learning.

Spriggs has important skills that enhance her extensive experience in teaching and administration and will help in her efforts to meet these goals. A good part of her career has been spent on the professional development of teachers, administrators and support personnel as well as interdisciplinary team work and community relations, all of which she views as essential. She is delighted that her office is in the school building so that she can easily visit with students, teachers and staff and come to know them well.

Looking back on her childhood in New Jersey, Spriggs remembers that she was always interested in school, and she was usually the designated teacher or principal in imaginary games with her friends.

But she didn't decide on a career in education until after college, where she majored in liberal arts and had many interests, including archeology, sociology, science and law.

After graduation, she worked in real estate while she explored whether to pursue a career in teaching or law. Advised by a friend to obtain some actual classroom experience before making her decision, she worked in a variety of schools in Fort Myers, FL, confirming her love for children and teaching. She returned to the University of Florida to obtain a Masters of Education in Administration and Supervision and Curriculum/Instruction with a focus on Bilingual Education.

From 1976 to 1987, Spriggs worked in Fort Myers, first in an elementary school and then in a Middle School gifted education program, where she taught science, social studies, language arts and reading and she coordinated a school-wide interdisciplinary reading program. She was also involved in teacher training as a supervising teacher at the University of South Florida/Fort Meyers campus. In 1987, she moved from classroom teaching to administration. For three years she was the assistant principal of a challenging inner-city middle school in Fort Myers, and then for five years she was a coordinator of teacher education, respon-

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sible for the professional development of administrators, teachers and support personnel for five counties in Florida. From 1995 to 1998, she was principal of an elementary school in Clewiston, Florida.

When the superintendent Spriggs was working with in Florida moved to Cambridge, MA, she recruited Spriggs to become executive director of professional development and a member of her Superintendent's Cabinet, allowing Spriggs to draw upon and further develop her interests in administration and professional development. During this time, Spriggs introduced major educational initiatives, including the creation of a Professional Development Center, which provided training for new teachers, administrators, mentors, secretaries and clerks for the Cambridge Public Schools. She received state recognition for the district Professional Development Plan and New Teacher Induction Plans. Partnerships with Boston universities produced numerous innovative programs for educators.

The same superintendent who had recruited Spriggs to Cambridge encouraged her to apply for the position in the Berkshires. Spriggs liked the idea of working in a regional school (she had attended a regional high school in New Jersey), and she looked forward to working with a school committee with the reputation of "being one of the best." On her visits here last spring, she says she recognized this school district as "special." The teachers demonstrated enormous energy, enthusiasm and team spirit. The students had an obvious pride in the school. Recognizing the educational excitement here and experiencing the intimate, caring atmosphere, she "was hooked."

Spriggs recently moved to Sheffield where she lives on Boardman St. with two cats from the Humane Society. She appreciates the cultural advantages of the Berkshires and mentioned in particular how much she enjoys the presence of the Barrington Stage Co. at the school. She hopes at some

point to have time for gardening. She looks forward to visits from her daughter Holly, a recent law school graduate living in Georgia, and from her mother, who lives in Florida. She appreciates the high level of community volunteer participation in the schools and will enjoy learning more about the five towns in her district and visiting the small elementary schools in Egremont, Monterey and New Marlborough.

—Ellen Rowntree

SATURDAY MARKET RETURNING

Thanks to the huge success of the indoor market sponsored by the Sheffield Friendly Union and the Sheffield Association last spring, the Saturday Market will be back for a new season starting on October 18. That's the week following the closing of the outdoor Farmers Market. Many of your favorite vendors will be there. Market hours are 9am to 1pm.



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NEW HEAD FOR BERKSHIRE SCHOOL

Ninety-six autumns after a Harvard-educated schoolteacher founded a private school on Undermountain Rd. and became the first headmaster, another Harvard-educated schoolteacher has taken the reins as its 13th.

Lawrence T. Piatelli, who was the head of school at The Albany (NY) Academy since 1996 and who is a veteran of almost three decades of independent school education, was appointed Head of Berkshire School by its Board of Trustees last February and took office on July 1.

Joining Mr. Piatelli are his wife, Jane, and their son, Stephen, who will be a sophomore at Berkshire this year. Mr. Piatelli, who also has a son at Hamilton College and another at Indian Mountain School, is the first head of school to have a child attending Berkshire in almost two decades.

Mr. Piatelli, 50, succeeds Phillip J. Jarvis, who served one year as interim Head and who has returned to his previous position as assistant head of school for enrollment. Mr. Piatelli's appointment culminated a six-month search that attracted over 50 candidates. The Newton, MA., native was unanimously endorsed by Berkshire's board of trustees in February, following the unanimous recommendation of a 12-member search committee.

Committee members included Sheffield residents Lin Bredenfoerder, who is head of the school's student health services; Tim Fulco, a 1978 graduate who is director of the physical plant; international student program director Anna Romano; and English department chair Hilary Russell. Trustees Lo-Yi Chan, Twiggs Myers

and John Stookey also live in Sheffield.

Larry Piatelli is no stranger to Berkshire School. Hockey fans here still talk about his body checking a Berkshire player over the boards while he was captain of Kent's team in 1971. After Kent, Mr. Piatelli received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Harvard University and a Master of Education from Boston University.

Prior to his seven-year headship at Albany Academy, a K-12 private day school, he was assistant head of school at Governor Dummer Academy in Byfield, MA, where in 12 years he also served as director of admissions, teacher of economics and history, dorm parent, and head coach of boys' varsity hockey.

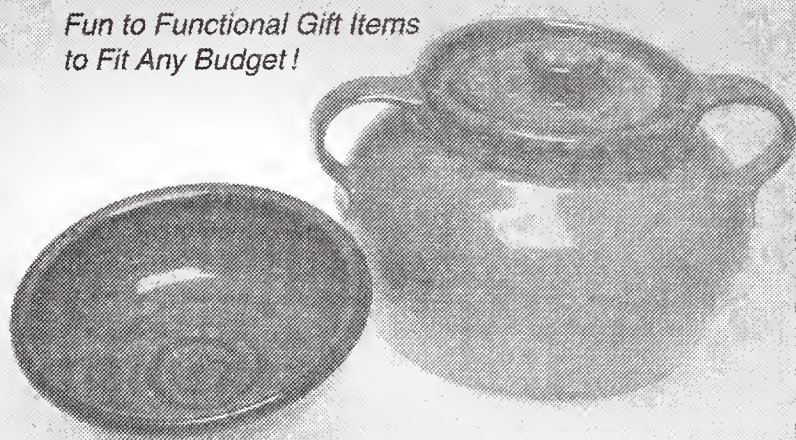
From 1976 to 1984, Mr. Piatelli was at Kent School, where he was

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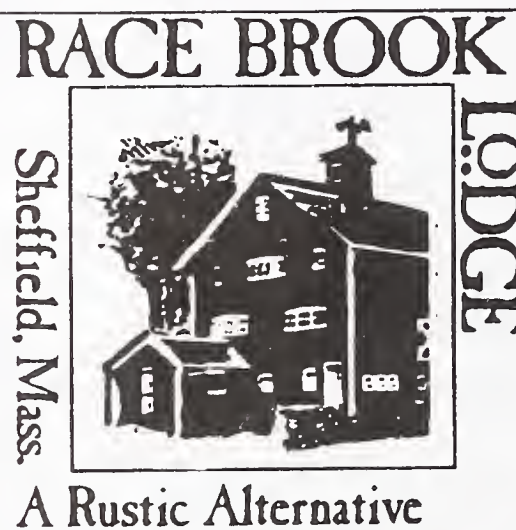
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assistant dean, assistant director of admissions, history teacher, head boys' varsity hockey coach, dorm parent and assistant football and lacrosse coach. He began his career at The Fenn School in Concord, MA, where he taught math and coached hockey. At Harvard he was a member of the men's varsity hockey team that advanced to the NCAA Final Four in his junior and senior years.

Jane Piatelli's own experience as a teacher, dorm parent and administrator gives the appointment a team approach. Mrs. Piatelli, who taught literature and language arts and was a reading specialist at Albany Academy, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and human relations from the University of Massachusetts and a Master of Education at Lesley College. She will be a tutor at Berkshire as well as at Indian Mountain School.

Focus on Community Service

Both Piatellis strongly believe in community service, and look forward to maintaining and improving ties between Berkshire School and Sheffield. One of the town's largest employers, with roughly the same number of employees as Southern Berkshire Regional School District and Sheffield Plastics, Berkshire pays an annual donation to the town in lieu of taxes. In addition, the school offers many opportunities and services free to the community,

including: admission to all its drama and art productions and sporting events; weekday ice time to the Berkshire Rattlers and Sunday afternoon ice skating to Sheffield residents, and use of its athletic fields to the Southern Berkshire American Legion baseball team, area youth softball teams and Mt. Everett's cross-country team. The school also hosts benefits for local organizations such as Fairview Hospital, the Sheffield Land Trust and the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce.

While all Berkshire School students are required to perform community service, in recent years "community" has meant the Berkshire School community. (One notable exception was the "Kids for Kids" mentoring program last year, in which Berkshire students worked with those at Undermountain Elementary School.)

"I want to get our young people out into the community, and I look forward to talking to people in town about that," says Mr. Piatelli, who is a Rotarian and Chamber of Commerce member. "I believe in a balanced education that not only practices the study of academics, athletics and the arts, but also teaches the moral, ethical and social skills necessary for life. Community service is a big part of that."

He adds that he would also like to have a working relationship with Mt. Everett Regional High School.

"Both of our schools have so much to offer. Most of the time all you hear about kids in the media is bad news. We want to make a real—and a positive—contribution, whether it's our kids filing books in the town library or members of our hockey team teaching skating to kids from town."

Jane Piatelli echoes her husband's philosophy about kids and the community in which they live. "Community service opens up their world. With the intention to give back, I always get back more than I give. It's such a rewarding feeling, and it's important for young people to have that feeling."

—James Harris

SHEFFIELD FOOD PROGRAM

Every Monday morning volunteers from our community gather at Old Parish Church to distribute food to individuals and families who, for a variety of reasons, just can't "do it all." Food is donated from area churches and businesses (Big Y, Price Chopper, etc.) and bought from donated funds.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of food assistance, call the church office (229-8173) or stop in on Mondays from 9:30-10:30.

And don't forget, there is a drop-off barrel for non-perishable food items inside the Sheffield Branch of Berkshire Bank, so you can make a contribution any time the bank is open.

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Voice mail ext. 15

HOME HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

Sheffield residents can get rid of used motor oil and oil-based paints at these times and places:

Sept. 3, 4-7pm, Great Barrington Transfer Station.

Sept. 20, 9-11am, Otis Transfer Station.

Oct. 4, 9-11am, Lenox Department of Public Works.

Household hazardous wastes, including paint thinners, pesticides, gasoline, and drain cleaner; products that contain mercury; rechargeable phone and tool batteries can be disposed of Oct. 18, 9am-1pm at Great Barrington Recycling Center at the transfer station.

Latex paint (dried) and alkaline batteries can be disposed of in regular household trash.

For more information, call the Center for Ecological Technology at 800-238-1221.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

New hours. Building Inspector, Brent Getchell, has new office hours: Tuesdays 6 to 8:30pm and Wednesdays 7:30am to 12:30pm. Please stop in or call 229-7006 for information or to make an appointment.

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SENIOR CENTER SALAD BAR AT FAIR

The Senior Center will host its salad bar for the second year at the Sheffield Fair. It will feature a wide range of freshly made individual salads, as well as lettuce, cucumber and tomato combinations.

Salads are: small \$3; large \$5, regardless of the type. Proceeds benefit Senior Center activities via the Friends of the Council on Aging Fund. The Council's mission is to encourage new and existing activities and services which enhance the quality of life for Sheffield's seniors.

ASSESSORS & COLLECTORS

Real-estate tax exemptions. The Assessors will be sending out exemption forms to those seniors age 70 years or older, veterans and blind who received them last year. Please contact the Assessors Office at 229-7001 to find out who qualifies for this exemption.

Chapter 61A & 61B annual applications due. Annual applications for classification under the Chapter 61A & 61B tax programs are due on or before **October 1**. Sorry, there are no exceptions for late filings.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

New paving planned. The Board of Selectmen have approved a request from Highway Superintendent Ronald Bassett to pave West Road, between Lime Kiln Road and Sheffield-Egremont Road, and a portion of Water Farm Road, above Boardman Street. The paving is planned for the end of September.

Farmers' Market of Sheffield

Fridays
4 to 7
center
of town

Sheffield's Weekly
Community Gathering
Place!

Farm Fresh Produce,
Organic Eggs & Meats,
Berkshire Breads
& Baked Goods,
Local Cheese & More!



A PROUD MEMBER OF BERKSHIRE GROWN

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Tuesdays and Fridays: 1pm-4pm, Saturdays: 8am-4pm, Sundays: 8:30am-2pm

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: EXCERPTS FROM MEETING MINUTES

4/24—A representative of Maxymillian Technology updated the Board on the monitoring of the spill at the Highway Department's garage. He suggested that since the contaminant levels are dropping faster than expected, the monitoring might be completed before May 2004 after three more testings. He suggested continuing monitoring of groundwater. The Board decided to continue the monitoring of the contaminants.

After discussion of the proposed Dufresne-Henry contract for consultant services in connection with the Kradel gravel pit excavation project and the total cost (the Board expected this cost to be about \$3,000 to \$3,800, not the quoted \$4,900), the Board unanimously approved the contract.

After discussion, the proposed Town Meeting Warrant was unanimously approved. [Copies may be obtained at the Town Clerk's office.]

The Board agreed that a plaque be given to John Ullrich, the retiring Fire Chief, at the May 17 celebration and to look into appropriate honors for other former fire chiefs.

The Board discussed various ways in which spouses of Selectmen could be covered by the Town for costs of attending special events. This issue will be discussed at a future Finance Committee meeting.

Chief McGarry discussed the Homeland Security Police Funding Questionnaire and the possibility of hiring another police officer in the future to help cover all shifts. The board signed the questionnaire.

4/24—The first part of the public hearing on the application for a permit by Mr. and Mrs. Kradel for excavation for gravel of 20 acres on East Stahl Road was held. Including the Selectmen, about 40 people were present. [Copies of the transcript of

this hearing may be obtained at the Town Clerk's office.]

The Board held a public pole hearing for relocation of two poles on the south side of Berkshire School Rd to serve a new home on Oak Street. It was decided to give Verizon and Mass. Electric permission to move the poles.

The Selectmen: Approved two one-day alcoholic licenses for the Berkshire School alumni weekend on June 6 and 7. Agreed to send a letter to Town Counsel regarding an old gravel pit. Agreed to sign a letter as an interested party regarding a proposed Berkshire Housing Development Corp. technical assistance program for small contractors which would provide training and technical assistance to low and moderate income people. Granted permission to bow hunt on town land to two individuals. Approved, subject to appropriation at the Town Meeting, vocational education for two students for a combined total of \$26,684 for the 2003-2004 school year.

On road-related matters, they: Agreed to have the Highway Superintendent check a request for the resurfacing of a portion of East Stahl Rd from the corner of Maple Ave. to the catch basin. Approved a street curb cut permit for Stephen Greenspan for a property on Miller Ave., subject to Chief McGarry's approval. Heard a request that trucks be prohibited from driving on Cooper Hill and agreed that a letter be sent to the Massachusetts Highway Department requesting a list of requirements for such a prohibition.

4/30—In a public hearing, the Board transferred the liquor license of David Essensfeld (for liquor served at the Stagecoach Hill Inn) to Architect Development Company, Inc. and from the latter to Waddling Dog Pub, Inc.

The Board then met with the Selectmen from Egremont, Alford and New Marlborough regarding the school budget.

5/19—The Board agreed to postpone the continuation of the public hearing on the gravel pit excavation permit to June 2, because of the absence of one of the Selectmen.

The Board appointed David Macy as its Chairman, Richard Kirchner as its clerk, Felicie Joyce as Town Clerk and Helen Johnston as Assistant Town Clerk.

Howard Chezar explained his intention to purchase and restore the Old Ashley Falls Mill while retaining its historic character. This would include constructing a new septic system in the same location as a proposed widening of the abutting bridge. There is a meeting scheduled for the next day to discuss the issue and Mr. Chezar would like the town's support. While the Board likes the proposed restoration, the Selectmen suggested he contact the Board after his meeting.

A proposed conservation restriction on land located between Kelsey and Foley Roads owned by Robert and Susan MacVeety was discussed with the MacVeetys and Tim Abbott and Elizabeth Marks of The Nature Conservancy. The Chairman discussed the effects on the tax base. Discussions will be resumed at the June 16 meeting.

—Peter Rowntree

Note: For more on the gravel quarry permit approval and conditions imposed at the Board of Selectmen's June 16 meeting, see the July/August issue or contact the Town Clerk.

Televised Board of Selectmen's meetings can also be seen Sundays at 11:30am on CTSB Cable Channel 11. Not all meetings are televised.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Programs in September and October at the Bushnell-Sage Memorial Library include:

- George Packer and Todd Gitlen discussing "The Fight Is For Democracy: Winning the War of Ideas in America," Sat., Sept. 20 at 1pm. Packer, a journalist and novelist, is the editor of this collection of "new liberal unorthodoxies" for the post-9/11 world from Gitlen and other authors. Gitlen, a professor of media and culture at NYU, is the author of "Media Unlimited: How the Torrent of Images and Sounds Overwhelms Our Lives" and other books.
- A discussion of "Unless," a novel by Carol Shields, facilitated by Judy Machanik, Tues. Sept. 23 at 4pm. "Unless" tells the story of Reta Winters, "a marvelously inventive character whose thought-provoking commentary on the ties between writing, love, art and family are constantly compelling in this unabashedly feminist novel" (Publisher's Weekly). Shields, who died in July, won the Pulitzer Prize for "Stone Diaries."
- Richard L. Grossman, a local author and editor, discussing "A Year With Emerson: A Daybook," Sat., Oct. 4 at 1pm.

SHEFFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE LOG

—Rick Boardman, Chief

- 6/18—Alarm PJ's Convenience Store; Alarm time 3:28pm; in service 3:32pm.
624—False alarm Fisher residence; Alarm time 6:17pm; in service 7:00pm
6/27—Alarm Sheffield Plastics; Alarm time 9:15pm; in service 9:38pm.
7/8 —Alarm Sheffield Plastics; Alarm time 8:45pm; in service 9:01pm.
7/14—Car accident; Alarm time 5:08pm; in service 6:41pm.
7/14—Car-truck accident; Alarm time 5:10pm; in service 6:41pm.
7/21—Alarm Sheffield Plastics; Alarm time 12:50am; in service 12:59am.
8/1—Truck fire; Alarm time 7:15pm; in service 7:58pm.
8/2—Alarm Kolburne School; Alarm time 9:58am; in service 10:14am.
8/2—Alarm Alden residence; Alarm time 11:24am; in service 11:40am.

BOARD OF HEALTH

New tobacco regulations. New smoking regulations have been approved which, as of September 15, prohibit smoking in all workplaces and public places. For details see the full text of the regulations at right, or contact the Board of Health at Town Hall.



BERKSHIRE CHORAL FESTIVAL

THANK YOU, SHEFFIELD!

The Berkshire Choral Festival thanks the Sheffield community for supporting our 22nd season. Our 1,100 choristers, who came from all over the U.S. and the world, come primarily to sing the choral-orchestral masterpieces but also because they enjoy the beauty and cultural richness of the Berkshires and of Sheffield in particular. Thank you for making them to feel welcome while they are here. We would like to thank especially those who service and support our endeavors during the season:

Berkshire School
Sheffield Kiwanis
Sheffield Police
Fairview Hospital
Donors from the community

Christ Church Episcopal
Old Parish Church
St. James Episcopal Church
Trinity Lime Rock Church
Blue Point Design

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SHEFFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT TOBACCO REGULATIONS

These regulations replace any and all prior public place tobacco regulations including those written separately. The only other regulation that exists for tobacco control is entitled "Youth Access to Tobacco Products" and deals with controlling the sale of tobacco products to persons under the age of eighteen.

A. Statement of Purpose:

Whereas conclusive evidence exists that tobacco smoke causes cancer, respiratory and cardiac diseases, negative birth outcomes, irritations to the eyes, nose, and throat; and whereas the harmful effects of tobacco smoke are not confined to smokers but also cause severe discomfort and illness to nonsmokers; and whereas environmental tobacco smoke [hereinafter ETS], which includes both exhaled smoke and the side stream smoke from burning tobacco products, causes the death of 53,000 Americans each year (McGinnis JM, Foege W, "Actual Causes of Death in the United States", JAMA 1993 270:2207-2212); and whereas the United States Environmental Protection Agency classified secondhand smoke as a known human carcinogen (U.S. EPA, 2003) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization also classified secondhand smoke as a known human carcinogen (IARC-WHO, 2002); now, therefore, the Boards of Health of Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge recognize the rights of those who wish to breathe smoke-free air and establishes this regulation to protect and improve the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking in workplaces.

B. Authority: This regulation is promulgated under the authority granted to the Sheffield Board of Health under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 31 that "boards of health may make reasonable health regulations.

C. Definitions: For the purposes of this regulation, the following words shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this paragraph:

- Bar: An adult-only establishment whose business is devoted to the

serving of alcoholic beverages for consumption by guests on the premises and in which the serving of food is only incidental to the consumption of such beverages.

- Business Agent: An individual who has been designated by the owner or operator of any establishment to be the manager or otherwise in charge of said establishment.
- Smoking: Inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, or other tobacco product in any form.
- Workplace: Any enclosed area of a structure or portion thereof at which one (1) or more employees perform services for their employer.

D. Smoking Prohibited:

1. Smoking is prohibited in all workplaces and all public places.
2. Within ten (10) feet of the main entrance to a building open to the public.
3. It shall be unlawful for any employer or other person having control of the premises upon which smoking is prohibited by this regulation, or the business agent or designee of such person, to permit a violation of this regulation.

F. Exceptions:

Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph D of this regulation, smoking may be permitted in the following places and /or circumstances:

1. Private residences, except those portions used as a child care or health care office when operating as such.
2. Hotel and motel rooms rented to guests that are designated as "smoking rooms," provided that at least 80% of the rooms be smoke-free at all times. A room so assigned shall have signs posted indicating that smoking is allowed therein and shall have self-closing doors. No change in room designations shall take place without prior written approval of the appropriate Board of Health.
3. Private or semiprivate rooms of nursing homes and long term care facilities, which are separately ventilated,

occupied by one (1) or more patients, and all of whom are smokers who have requested in writing to be placed in rooms where smoking is permitted.

G. Violations:

Any employer, or his or her business agent, who violates any provision of this regulation shall receive:

1. In the case of a first violation, a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
2. In the case of a second violation within twenty-four (24) months of the date of the first violation, a fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00).
3. In the case of three or more violations within twenty-four (24) months of the current violation, including the current violation, a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

Each day on which any violation exists shall be deemed to be a separate offense.

H. Enforcement:

The Board of Health and its designees shall enforce this regulation.

One method of enforcement may be periodic, unannounced inspections of those establishments subject to this regulation. Any citizen who desires to register a complaint under this regulation may request that the appropriate Board of Health initiate an investigation.

I. Severability:

If any paragraph or provision of this regulation is found to be illegal or against public policy or unconstitutional, it shall not affect the legality of any remaining paragraphs or provisions.

J. Conflict with Other Laws or Regulations:

Notwithstanding the provisions of the foregoing Paragraph D of this regulation, nothing in this regulation shall be deemed to amend or repeal applicable fire, health or other regulations so as to permit smoking in areas where it is prohibited by such fire, health or other regulations.

K. Effective Date:

September 15, 2003

POLICE DEPARTMENT

D.A.R.E. ROPES COURSE PROGRAM A SUCCESS

Chief James M. McGarry reports that once again, the Sheffield Police Dept. has conducted a successful annual D.A.R.E. Summer Program at the Sheffield Town Park. The free program, held July 14 to 18, consists of mastering a "ropes course," which is designed to build confidence and teamwork. Participants were children in grades 5 and 6 from the Undermountain Elementary School in Sheffield. Older children act as mentors for the younger students. Each year the program hosts 50 to 55 children.

The ropes course consists of eight low elements and five high elements. Participants start the week with field games and move to the low ropes, building trust before moving on to the high ropes. Students finish the course the last day with the "zip line," a 500-foot slide on a cable about 50 feet high. The weather this year was almost perfect.

The police personnel who spend the week working with the children are all trained as "ropes facilitators." They include Officers Sherry Johnson, Gary Mitchell, Nick DeSantis, and Timothy Ullrich of the Sheffield Police; Officers Mandy Prew and Brian Shaw of the Stockbridge Police; Sgt. Joseph Buffis of the Lee Police; and Probation Officer Cliff Nilan of the Southern Berkshire Probation Department. Other Sheffield Police officers—Tony Ullrich, Susan Rathbun, Mike Ovitt, Scott Farrell and Richard Robarge—also helped out, picking up donations, cleaning up, taking the phone calls, and delivering supplies as needed. Chief Probation Officer Alfred Barbalunga from the Great Barrington Court spent part of a day cooking and serving a barbecue lunch. Debbie Cook, from the probation department, spent Friday helping with the cook out and demonstrating the zip line, even though rumor had it that she doesn't care for heights.

The officers were exceptionally proud of the students, most of whom successfully completed all the high elements. A few of the children couldn't complete a high element on the first try, but came back the next day and with a little encouragement tried again and did it! One of these kids did so well on the second try that she was one of the demonstrators on the final day, when family and friends are invited to a cookout and a demonstration of the high ropes elements.

Demonstrators included Emily Crawford, granddaughter of Santi Gulotta, former Selectman and Chief of Police in whose honor the ropes course is dedicated,



2003 D.A.R.E. Summer Program.

Zach Batacchi, Phil Blume, Konnor Buffis and Samantha Burdick. Certificates were awarded for completing the course. In addition to Chief McGarry, Assistant District Attorney Joe Pieropan and Town Administrator Bob Weitz were on hand to congratulate the children.

This year, the D.A.R.E. grant money was discontinued, making donations especially important for the survival of this valuable program. The D.A.R.E. Summer Program would like to thank many local merchants: Manhattan Pizza, The Peppermill Restaurant, Limey's Restaurant and The Old Mill Restaurant, who each donated a day's lunch; Guido's and P.J.'s Convenience Store, who donated fruit and snacks; and Silk's Variety and The North Egremont Store, who donated drinks. Thanks also go out to the Stockbridge and Lee Police Departments and the Southern Berkshire Probation Department who send officers to help with the facilitating. Monterey Police Chief Garret Backhaus also contributed financially to the program.

The Department plans to continue the D.A.R.E. Summer Program. The officers involved feel strongly about developing good relationships with Sheffield's children, and this program is a wonderful way to start.

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Households, small businesses and non-profits can "green up" the electricity they use for a small premium each month when Massachusetts Electric Company offers GreenerWatts New England in October. Customers who choose GreenerWatts will get reliable electricity while supporting the growth of environmentally responsible energy production in New England. The option lets you show that people are willing to pay a small premium for cleaner, healthier electricity. This, in turn will help build wind farms, solar-powered buildings and low-impact hydropower facilities. "GreenerWatts New England will start to bring renewable power within everybody's reach," said Laura Dubester from the Center for Ecological Technology.

Massachusetts Electric Company customers will receive information about this opportunity to choose GreenerWatts New England in their September bills. To find out more, call Ruth Dinerman at CET, 413-445-4556, or email: ruthd@cetonline.org.

Support the Sheffield Times!
See page 27.

FRIENDLY UNION BBQ

The Sheffield Friendly Union's Annual Chicken Barbeque will be held Sat., Sept. 20, at 6pm. Fresh corn and other goodies will also be served. Tickets are \$6; \$4 for children under 8. Call for reservations at 229-7907 before Wed., Sept. 17. Tickets will also be sold at the door until the chicken runs out.

The Friendly Union maintains Dewey Memorial Hall on Main St. in the center of Sheffield. The newly refurbished hall is available to community groups at a nominal fee. Stop by to see this wonderful meeting place.

BARRINGTON STAGE KIDS COURSE

Barrington Stage Company is accepting students for its fall *KidsAct!* program through Sept. 15. Two eight-week courses for children ages 8-10 and 11-13 begin Oct. 3 and 4 at BSC's StudioSpace in Sheffield. Theatre professionals lead small classes focused on improvisational skills, theatre games, character studies, monologue and scene work, mask work and movement. Each course culminates in a special production written and performed by students.

Tuition is \$175 per child. Full and partial scholarships are available. Space is limited. Information: 528-8806.

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KIWANIS NEWS

August activities. With only a few days break after five weeks of bar and trailer duties and parking cars at concerts at the Berkshire Choral Festival, club members re-grouped for the revival of an Annual Steak Roast/Family Fun Day at the Sheffield Town Park on August 16. Our thanks goes to all who attended the event.

In late August, several Sheffield Kiwanians attended the New England District Convention in Danvers, MA. The highlight was the installation of Cathy Finkle, our local secretary, as the new Lt. Governor for Division 21, which encompasses all of Berkshire County and eastward toward Springfield. A total of 13 groups will be getting Cathy's supervision and attention starting October 1, the beginning of the new Kiwanis year.

Also at the end of August, Linda

Wartella headed a refreshment trailer crew at French Park in N. Egremont for the annual Blue Rider Stables charity day. Later in the day other Kiwanians assisted in parking cars for the Fairview Hospital Gala at Berkshire School.

Sheffield in Celebration.

Kiwanis will again have the food trailer at the Sheffield Fair on Sat., Sept. 6. Our trash barrels, sign boards, and other items will also be on hand and we will be parking cars—we have experience at this "art."

Awards dinner and installation.

On Sat., Oct. 4, Kiwanis holds its annual Installation/Awards Gala at the Egremont Country Club. Next year's major officers will be repeats of this year's: David Smith, Jr., president; Anita Diller, president-elect; Patricia Hardisty, vice-president; Cathy Finkle, secretary; and Richard

Goodwin, treasurer. The Board of Directors will include Arthur Armstrong, Dana Bartholomew, Jack Blume, James Collingwood, Jr., Dennis Hankey, Denise Rueger, Bill Silk, and Linda Wartella, with Cindy Wolfe as the Alternate.

Art auction. Columbus Day, Oct. 12, the second annual Kiwanis Art Auction is scheduled for the Sheffield American Legion hall. There will be a tent out front for the wine and beer tasting. Watch for more as the date draws closer.

On-going projects. Kiwanis continues its semi-monthly soup kitchen duties at St. Peter's Center in Great Barrington. It will conclude this year's Litter Patrol along Route 7 with the crew on Thurs., Oct. 16.

—Richard L. Goodwin

The Sheffield Kiwanis meets weekly, Tuesdays, 6:30pm, Limey's Restaurant.

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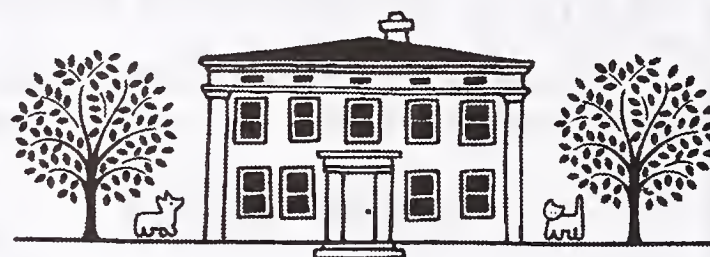
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(4 pm – 7 pm @ FMOS)

Saturday – Sunday
10 am – 6 pm

Monday Closed

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Our office on Route 7, in the part of Sheffield known as "The Plain," is a lovely two-and-a-half-story Early Greek Revival with five bay front and eyebrow windows set into a deep cornice under a hip roof. Heavy corner pilasters and a south funeral door are distinct features of this building which was built as a residence in ca. 1825 by Return E. Jones.

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LANDMARK VOLUNTEERS IN SHEFFIELD

Team Leader John McKillip guides his group of volunteers through the halls of Undermountain Elementary School to the shop room. Thirteen kids, ranging in age from 14 1/2 to 17, follow. Today, they learn, they will not be removing invasive species from the Schenob Brook Wetland Preserve for The Nature Conservancy, as they've done for the past week, but will instead be lending a hand at the school in thanks for the school housing them. After deciding which five get to paint the interior of the yellow house on school property and which eight get to assist the shop teacher in continuing the boardwalk trail behind the softball field, the groups move out, delighting in the prospect of pizza for lunch, instead of the usual sandwiches.

The group is part of Landmark Volunteers, a nonprofit program headquartered on Route 7 in Sheffield. The program places high school students from all over the country as volunteers in historical,

cultural, environmental, and social service institutions. It offers summer service experiences in 64 locations in 21 states, encouraging students to expand their worlds through community service and to gain the kind of self-respect that can only be earned by giving.

Landmark, founded 11 years ago, has nine sites in Massachusetts this year. Six are in Berkshire County: restoring the grounds at Ventfort Hall in Lenox, trail widening between Fountain Pond and Beartown State Forest, farm chores at Gould Farm in Monterey, trail creation on the grounds of Shakespeare and Co., and grounds work for the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood, plus the work on the Schenob.

The students choose the six Landmark sites that most interest them, and Landmark places them in one of those six. Several students chose the Schenob as number one. "The brochure showed a picture of a waterfall," jokes one, but all agree

that the task of preserving rare species and the area's natural resources is a worthy cause. Several of the students working in the group are Landmark alumni, having volunteered last summer for two weeks in Maine completing similar conservation work.

Schenob Brook, one of the most diverse wetlands in the Northeast, is part of the Berkshire Taconic Landscape, which The Nature Conservancy calls one of the "Last Great Places." Since the early 1980s, The Nature Conservancy has concentrated preservation efforts there. The Landmark volunteers make that task a little easier.

For more information about Landmark Volunteers, see their website at www.volunteers.com.

For more about The Nature Conservancy's Last Great Places, see the July-August issue of the Sheffield Times, or visit www.lastgreatplaces.org/berkshire.

—Cassie Lynch



At The Bookloft

Published in 1976 by the Sheffield Bicentennial Committee, Lillian Preiss's *Sheffield: A Frontier*

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Stone Store exhibit. "Spend Summer in Sheffield & Environs: The Tourism Trade in the Railroad Era" will be open during the evening hours of Sheffield in Celebration. The Old Stone Store, built in 1834, houses the exhibition and the Society's Shop. Stop in and view the wonders of Sheffield, which tourists of 100 years ago encountered as they strolled through town.

Basket-making talk. JoAnn Kelly Catsos, a nationally honored basket weaver, will tell the story of "Harvest of Black Ash from Trunk to Basket" on Friday, Sept. 12, at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Room of Old Parish Church, Sheffield. Catsos began teaching rattan reed basketry to children and adults in 1986 and now teaches her original black ash basketry designs at basketry conventions and craft schools around the

country. Catsos and her husband, Steve, process the black ash splint, make molds, and do the woodworking associated with black ash baskets. The event is free and open to the public.

Basket workshop. Spend a day weaving a Sheffield Berry Basket made of black ash splint that was harvested in the Berkshires. The Sheffield Berry Basket is designed as a functional basket similar to what would have been made in New England 100 years ago. The combination of traditional black ash splint basketry techniques and modern expertise produces a basket that is both beautiful and useful. The Sheffield Berry Basket is 6 1/2 inches in diameter and 8 inches tall with handle. No experience is needed for this workshop, taught by JoAnn Kelly Catsos. Sat., Sept. 13, 10am-5pm.

The workshop fee is \$75, which includes all materials. Pre-registration is required. The workshop will take place at the Society's Old Stone Store, located on Route 7 in the center of Sheffield.

Cemetery walk with James Miller. As part of Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area weekend, Sat., Oct. 4, local historian James Miller will conduct a tour of two of Sheffield's oldest cemeteries. Stones of unusual interest, importance, or distinction will be pointed out and discussed. The walk begins at 10am at the Society's Dan Raymond House headquarters, 159 Main Street. Participation is limited and advance registration is suggested. The walk will last about 1 1/2 hours. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Call (413) 229-2694 to reserve a place. Free and open to the general public.

Lost towns of central Massachusetts. On Fri., Oct. 10, at 7:30pm, Ed and Libby Klekowski will present "Under the Quabbin: The Lost Towns," stories about the creation of



Ethan Chamberlain as Harold Roys at last year's Historical Society "Spirits of Sheffield" cemetery walk.

this huge reservoir and the towns it submerged. The Klekowskis, from the University of Massachusetts, researched the construction and flooding of the Quabbin Reservoir and produced a WGBY program on the project. (This program was postponed from an earlier date.) Free and open to the general public.

Spirits of Sheffield cemetery walk. One of the Society's most popular programs, the annual Spirits of Sheffield Cemetery Walk will take place this year on Sat., Oct. 18, from 4-6pm. This year the visitations with inhabitants from Sheffield's past will take place at the Barnard Cemetery on Route 7. Men and women from the 18th and 19th centuries will recount the struggles they encountered in war and peace. If you are interested in playing a leading role in this year's event or if you wish to help with the logistics of the program, call the office at 229-2694. Refreshments. Free to members, \$4 general public.

The Sheffield Historical Society is located on Route 7 in the center of Sheffield. Tours of the Dan Raymond House are available Thursday through Saturday 11am-4pm. The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Monday and Friday 1:30-4pm and by appointment. The Stone Store hours are Saturday 10am-2pm and Sunday 11am-3pm. For further information on Society programs, contact the Sheffield Historical Society, 159-161 Main Street, P.O. Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, (413) 229-2694 or email shs@sheffieldhistory.org

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RECLAIMING ROUTE 7 FARMLAND

The Sheffield Land Trust and James M. Larkin are partnering to reclaim farmland along Route 7 between the State Highway garage and Watson's Automotive, land that the family leased and worked years ago. An aerial photograph of the area from 1942 shows this land and most of the Route 7 corridor as a patchwork quilt of farm fields interspersed with occasional hedgerows – the classic New England and Sheffield landscape.

Over the years the property changed hands numerous times, was subdivided and broken up into small lots as people speculated on commercial ventures that never came to pass. Much of the property grew to shrubs and trees. Then, completing a project begun by local philanthropist Robert Thieriot, the Land Trust purchased four contiguous lots and defragmented the ownership to reclaim the land for farming.

While the bulk of the land is being cleared to expand the existing cropland, a wildlife corridor running along the railroad track at the western boundary, as well as a sensitive ecological zone of vernal pools and old floodplain forest at the south end of the property, will be left as is. Because of these resources, one of the first steps in

the reclamation process was filing for approvals with the Conservation Commission.

The same soils that make the land valuable for crops also support the quick growth of trees and shrubs, so reclaiming this property is labor-intensive, and careful observers may have noted clearing going on over the last year. Now, most of the field is cleared and Larkin will be grading and planting the newly cleared areas to expand upon the existing cropland.

Larkin, who is currently leasing the land, will eventually purchase the property for its agricultural value, with the Land Trust retaining its development rights, to ensure that it remains as farmland and wildlife habitat.

Protecting farmland and supporting the local farm economy is an important part of the Land Trust's work, and projects like this and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions help keep land in agriculture, farm ownership local and food produced locally. The farms, in turn, maintain the pastoral landscape that is essential the character of Sheffield and Berkshire County, and to tourism and all the jobs, businesses and services that depend on the areas tourist economy.

BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE PROGRAMS

All programs meet at the Cobble on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls unless otherwise specified. Unless noted, fees for members are \$3 for adult; child 6-16 free; non-members, \$6 for adult; child \$2. 229-8600 for details.

Volunteer work parties. *Thursdays through Oct., 9am-12pm.* Help clear the Cobble of invasive exotic species and have a great time. Call in advance. Free.

Late Wildflowers and Fall Migration. *Sat., Sept. 6, 8-10am.* Explore the Cobble in late summer with Regional Ecologist, Jose Garcia. Pre-register.

Special Concert with Joseph Firecrow. *Sat., Sept. 6, 5pm.* Back by popular demand! Northern Cheyenne fluteman Joseph Fire Crow, a Grammy Award nominee, brings his music to the slopes of Hurlburt's Hill. Call for reservations. Members: adult \$12, child \$6; nonmembers: adult \$15, child \$8.

Hawk Watch. *Saturdays, Sept. 13-Oct. 11, 11am-2pm.* Gather on Hurlburt's Hill and watch for hawks on their annual migration. Members: adult \$3, child free; nonmembers: adult \$5, child free.

Owl Prowl. *Sat., Oct. 18, 7-9pm (rain date: Oct. 25).* Night hike to listen and look. Pre-register.

4th Annual NW Connecticut Waterfowl Census. *Sat., Nov. 8, 9am-2pm.* Learn to identify waterfowl on a field trip to several lakes in NW Conn. with experienced birders. Dress warmly. Free.



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Real-estate transfers

June

- 9 Elizabeth M. Chapin to Jean C. & Barry R. Emberlin, property on Rote Hill Rd, Transfer.
- 11 Reginald A. & Kathleen H. Twing to Walter D. & Patricia J. Hewins Jr, property at Bunce Rd, \$12,000.
- 11 Mary White, Trustee of the Bronagh Nominee Realty Trust to Valerie G. Spriggs, property at 1105 Boardman St, \$353,000.
- 16 Merle William Wynn (Estate of) to Sheffield Land Group LLP, property at 839 Bow Wow Rd, \$720,000.
- 20 O'Connor Bros. Inc. to Paul E. Emerling, property at Clayton Rd, \$32,000.
- 23 William H. Scott to Christos Papachristodoulou, property at 20 Hillside Ln, \$245,000.
- 24 Harriet Agar Hart to Arnold C. & Diana L. Agar, property at 501 Hewins St, Transfer.
- 25 Margaret G. Beverly to Scott Cappel, property at Maple Ave, \$4,000.
- 26 Jane Sherman to Barry A. & Charlotte L. Davidson, property at 245 East Stahl Rd, \$285,000.

July

- 1 Timothy F. Zucco to John William Wheeler, property at 100 Salisbury Rd, \$45,000.
- 1 Karen G. Camp Zigmand to James A. Zigmand & Karen G. Camp Zigman, property at 17 Weidmer Ter, \$10.
- 3 Jeffrey Tennyson & Eric Vanderbush to Sandra M. Preston, property at County Rd, \$9,600.
- 9 Larry J. Seelig Jr. to Frederick C. & Michelle L Harwood, property at 50 Cook Rd, \$135,000.
- 11 Mary Carroll Marden to Sam R. & Bonnie L. Watkins Jr, property at 78 Rannapo Rd, \$295,000.

- 16 Lloyd Henry Ingram to Ashley Mill LLC, property at 1204 Ashley Falls Rd, \$175,000.
- 18 Mark E. Bachetti to Terry & Reitta Johnson, property at Silver St, \$186,000.
- 21 Gregg S. Massini to Brent L. & Jamie Getchell, property at Silver St, \$38,000.
- 21 John W. Tinker Jr to Elizabeth M. Rockefeller, property at 9 Squire Ln, \$1.
- 23 Minnie L. Markham to Janet M. Curtis & Holly L. Smith, property at Home Rd, \$1.
- 23 Minnie L. Markham to Glenn A. Curtiss, property at 1265 Home Rd, \$1.
- 24 Wheeler & Taylor, Inc to Barrington Stage Company, Inc, property at 18 Elm Court, \$225,000.
- 25 Wendy Love to Sara P. Love, property at 206 Root Ln, Transfer.
- 25 Ronald R. & Nancy B. Williams to David & Annette Berkovits, property at 320 Hulett Hill Rd, \$272,500.
- 25 Molly K. & John M. Burke to Colin A. L. & Betty Dunbar, property at 10 Cedar St, \$220,000.
- 29 David B. & Darleen B. Rogers to Maureen F. Golden & Maureen F. Rathbun, property at 1625 Hewins St, \$125,000.
- 31 Elizabeth Marchiano to Edmond B. Herrington, Trustee of the Herrington-Sheffield Nominee Trust, property at 359 N Undermountain Rd, \$540,000.

August

- 4 Gene E. & Karen A. Faul to Mark Godburn, property at Sheffield Plain, \$59,000.
- 6 Judy Blass to Donna E. Kinne & Jason T. Marshall, property at 204 Bunce Rd, \$252,000.

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Page numbers are given after an event if it's written up in this issue.

September

- 5-7 & 12-14 Sheffield in Celebration
- 6 Heavenly Quilt Show, Old Parish, 10am-7pm
- 6 Sheffield Fair, center of Sheffield, 3-7pm
- 6 Art Show, Library, 10am-7pm, Reception 5-7pm
- 7 Art Show, Library, 10am-4pm
- 12 Art Show, Library, 4-7pm
- 12 Basket-Making Talk, Old Parish, 7:30pm (p.24)
- 13&14 Art Show, Library, 10am-4pm
- 13 Basket Workshop, 10am-5pm (p.24)
- 20 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal, Otis Transfer Station, 9-11am (p.16)
- 20 Friendly Union Chicken BBQ, Dewey Hall, 6pm (p.21)
- 26 ROSH HASHANAH (starts at sundown)
- 27 Potluck & Benefit Dance, Sheffield Grange, 6:30 & 8:30 (p.9)

October

- 1 Chapter 61A & B applications Due (p.16)
- 4 20 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal, Lenox DPW, 9-11am (p.16)
- 4 Cemetary Walk, Dan Raymond House, 10am (p.24)
- 4 Kiwanis Awards Dinner, Egremont Country Club (p.22)
- 5 YOM KIPPUR (starts at sundown)
- 10 Lost Towns of Central Mass, Old Parish, 7:30pm (p.24)
- 12 COLUMBUS DAY
- 12 Kiwanis Art Auction, American Legion Hall (p.22)
- 13 COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED
- 18 Saturday Market Begins, Dewey Hall, 9am-1pm (p.13)
- 18 Sprirts of Sheffield, Barnard Cemetary, 4-6pm (p.24)
- 31 HALLOWEEN

November

- 4 ELECTION DAY

SEE ALSO:

Master Plan, p. 3 ♦ Churches & Services, p.8 & 9 ♦ Family Network, p. 9 ♦ Kiwanis, p. 22 ♦ Historical Society, p.24 ♦ Cobble, p.25

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

(Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by number - i.e. "1st", "3rd" indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month.
* indicates appointment needed.

Mondays:

- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am (p15)
- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd, 4th
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd

Tuesdays:

- Council on Aging, Dewey Hall, 9am, 3rd
- Physical Fitness Class, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am
- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 6pm - 8:30pm
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Support Group, Fairview Hospital Library, 6:30pm, 4th
- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd
- Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
- Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant, 6:30pm

Thursdays:

- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7am - 1pm
- Kid's Club, Old Parish Church, 9am-12pm
- Parent-Child Playgroup, Grace BibleChurch, 9:30-11:30
- *Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd
- Physical Fitness Class, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th

Fridays:

- Farmers' Market, Old Parish Parking Lot, 4-7pm

Saturdays:

- Saturday Market, Dewey Hall, 9am-1pm (starts 9/18) (p.18)
- Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4th

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

See also regular listings above

September

- 6 Salad Bar at Sheffield Fair, 3-7pm
- *25 Luncheon at Dewey Hall by Gt. Barrington Rehabilitation Center & Timberlyn Heights. Two Amigos will entertain, Noon

October

- *2 Hearing Clinic, 11am-1pm
- 9 NO BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC
- 27 Flu Shots, 9am-Noon
- 30 Pot Luck Luncheon, Dewey Hall, Sandy French & Sue Kaufman

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SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION 2003!

Sept. 5-7 & 12-14

Sheffield Fair ♦ Sept. 6, 3-7pm

(On the Green, Center of Sheffield)

**Music, Food, Classic & Muscle Cars, Cottage Industries & Local
Businesses, Climbing Wall, Fire Engine, Clowns & more
Kids Activities 3-5: Hay Rides, Pony Rides, 4-H Animals, Cider Press,
Face Painting, Craft Table, Sack race, Tug-of-war & more**

Art Show ♦ Sept. 5-7 & 12-14

Food : Grown, Cooked & Eaten

(Bushnell-Sage Library)

Fridays, 4-7pm; Saturdays & Sundays 10-4

**Special hours & public Artist's Reception Sept. 6, 10-7
(during the Sheffield Fair)**

7th Annual Heavenly Quilt Show ♦ Sept. 5 & 6

(Old Parish Church)

Friday 10am-4:30pm, Saturday 10am-7pm

Farmers' Market ♦ Sept. 5 & 12, 4-7pm

(Center of Sheffield)

**Sheffield
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